

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING:
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE'S REQUEST TO INCREASE RATES IN ITS GENERAL RATE CASE APPLICATION NO. A.15-07-015
ANTELOPE VALLEY - LANCASTER SERVICE AREA**

**March 24, 2016 • 5:00 p.m.
City of Palmdale Council Chambers
38300 Sierra Hwy, Suite B
Palmdale, CA 93550**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) wants to hear from you. A Public Participation Hearing (PPH) has been scheduled for customers in the Antelope Valley District - Lancaster area at the date, time, and location noted above to receive your comments about California Water Service's (Cal Water) General Rate Case (GRC) application (A.15-07-015). A CPUC Administrative Law Judge (Judge) will preside at the PPH to listen to concerns, comments, and opinions on the proposed application.

The hearing location is wheelchair accessible. A Spanish language interpreter will be at the hearing for those who need it. If you need a different non-English language interpreter or special assistance, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office (PAO) at the address listed at the bottom of this notice at least five days in advance of the hearing date. If you cannot attend the PPH, you may submit your comments via a letter or email to the PAO.

CAL WATER'S APPLICATION

Every three years, Cal Water is required to file a GRC with the CPUC. On July 9, 2015, Cal Water filed its 2015 GRC application (A.15-07-015) requesting approval to increase rates so that water rates reflect the cost of providing water service. Also included in A.15-07-015 is Cal Water's proposal to gradually merge the costs of its Palos Verdes and Antelope Valley Districts to improve affordability and develop administrative efficiencies.

A. With Cost Consolidation – If this consolidation is approved by the CPUC as proposed, the portion of the requested revenue increase for Antelope Valley - Lancaster customers would be \$266,000, or 21.4%, for 2017, \$89,000, or 5.9%, for 2018 and \$90,000, or 5.6%, for 2019. With consolidation, the total revenue increase over the three years would be \$445,000 or 35.8%.

*Antelope Valley - Lancaster Revenue Increases **with** Consolidation (by type of service)*

Type of Service Provided	2017 Increase		2018 Increase		2019 Increase	
Residential Metered Service	\$208,000	18.5%	\$79,000	5.9%	\$79,000	5.6%
Nonresidential Metered Service*	\$58,000	48.2%	\$10,000	5.9%	\$11,000	5.6%

*Nonresidential Metered Service applies to all customer classes that are not residential (such as business, multi-family, and public authority customers) and do not have a separate tariff.

Typical Customer Impact with Consolidation

If Cal Water's proposed consolidation of the Palos Verdes and Antelope Valley Districts is approved, the bills for a typical residential customer in Antelope Valley - Lancaster with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter using 20,945 gallons (28 Ccf) of water per month would resemble those below. **These numbers do not include surcharges and credits.**

*Antelope Valley - Lancaster Typical Residential Customer Bill Increase **with** Consolidation*

	Jul 2015	2017		2018		2019	
<i>Residential Customer</i>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Bill</u>
5/8" x 3/4" meter	<u>\$138.21</u>	<u>\$8.90</u> <u>6.4%</u>	<u>\$147.12</u>	<u>\$8.69</u> <u>5.9%</u>	<u>\$155.81</u>	<u>\$8.76</u> <u>5.6%</u>	<u>\$164.57</u>

B. Without Cost Consolidation – If consolidation is not approved, Cal Water requests revenue increases for its Antelope Valley - Lancaster District of \$488,000, or 39.2%, for 2017, \$14,000, or 0.8%, for 2018 and \$14,000, or 0.8%, for 2019. Without consolidation, the total revenue increase over the three years would be \$516,000 or 41.5%.

*Antelope Valley - Lancaster Estimated Revenue Increases **without** Consolidation (by type of service)*

Type of Service Provided	2017 Increase		2018 Increase		2019 Increase	
Residential Metered Service	\$450,000	40.0%	\$13,000	0.8%	\$13,000	0.8%
Nonresidential Metered Service*	\$38,000	31.7%	\$1,000	0.8%	\$1,000	0.8%

*Nonresidential Metered Service applies to all customer classes that are not residential (such as business, multi-family, and public authority customers) and do not have a separate tariff.

Typical Customer Impact *without Consolidation*

If Cal Water's proposal is adopted **without consolidation**, the bill of a typical residential customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter using 20,945 gallons (28 Ccf) of water per month would resemble those below. **These numbers do not include surcharges and credits.**

Antelope Valley - Lancaster Typical Residential Customer Bill Increase **without Consolidation**

	Jul 2015	2017			2018		2019		
Residential Customer	Bill	Increase		Bill	Increase		Increase		Bill
5/8" x 3/4" meter	\$138.21	\$48.23	34.9%	\$186.44	\$2.77	1.5%	\$189.21	\$1.53	0.8%

Reasons for Increase (across Antelope Valley)

Cal Water has been providing water to California communities for nearly 90 years, and many of the facilities used for water service have reached the end of their useful lives. For the Antelope Valley District, without consolidation, most of Cal Water's requested revenue increases are made up of the following components:

- Water infrastructure improvements (54%)
- Projected operation and maintenance expenses (35%)
- Water projected water supply costs (11%)

Cal Water's proposed rates for 2017-2019 would become effective on January 1, 2017. The rate increases for 2018 and 2019 are derived using the most recent inflation factors provided by the CPUC. The CPUC requires that Cal Water use a simplified, inflation-based, escalation methodology for its proposed rates for 2018 and 2019.

Obtaining a Copy of the Application

A copy of Cal Water's proposed GRC application and related exhibits may be reviewed at Cal Water's office, located at 5015 West Avenue L-14, Unit 2, Quartz Hill, CA 93536, (800) 680-1160. An electronic or paper copy of said application and related exhibits will be furnished by Cal Water upon written request to California Water Service Company, 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112-4598. Copies are also available to review at the CPUC's Central Files Office in San Francisco by appointment. For more information, please contact them at ajcentralfilesid@cpuc.ca.gov or (415) 703-2045.

The CPUC's Process

This application has been assigned to a Judge who will determine how to receive evidence and other related documents necessary for the CPUC to establish a record upon which to base its decision. Evidentiary hearings may be held where utilities, consumer advocacy groups, and other entities which have been given official status as "parties" will present their testimony and may be subject to cross-examination by other parties. These evidentiary hearings are open to the public, but only those who are parties may participate. The hearings and documents submitted in the proceeding become part of the formal record that the Judge relies upon when writing a proposed decision to present to the Commissioners for their consideration.

After considering all proposals and all evidence presented during the formal hearing process, the Judge will issue a proposed decision determining whether to adopt Cal Water's request, modify it, or deny it. Any of the CPUC's Commissioners may sponsor an alternate decision. The proposed decision and any alternate decisions will be discussed and voted upon at a scheduled Commission Voting Meeting.

As a party of record, the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) has reviewed this application. ORA is the independent consumer advocate within the CPUC with a legislative mandate to represent investor-owned utility customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. ORA has a multi-disciplinary staff with expertise in economics, finance, accounting, and engineering. For more information about ORA, please call (415) 703-1584, e-mail ora@cpuc.ca.gov, or visit ORA's website at www.ora.ca.gov.

Stay Informed

If you would like to follow this proceeding, or any other issue before the CPUC, you may use the CPUC's free subscription service. Sign up at <http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/>.

If you would like to learn how you can participate in the proceeding, have informal comments, or have questions about the CPUC's processes, you may access the CPUC's Public Advisor's webpage at <http://consumers.cpuc.ca.gov/pao/>. You may also contact the Public Advisor as follows:

Email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074

Write: CPUC

1-866-836-7825 (toll-free) or TTY 1-415-703-5282

Public Advisor's Office

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

Please reference **Cal Water's GRC Application No. 15-07-015** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter. All public comments will become part of the public correspondence file for this proceeding and be made available for review for the assigned Judge, the Commissioners, and appropriate CPUC staff.